

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT 1. Community of Kulpin, Novi Sad District;
2. Montenegrins in Ravan Area

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Community of Kulpin, Novi Sad District

1. The village of Kulpin, Novi Sad district, has about 1,150 families. About 800 of them are Slovak Evangelists, and the remainder are Serbian Orthodox. The following were officials in the village:
 - a. Paljo Labat, Chairman. Labat was also a member of the District People's Council in Novi Sad;
 - b. Laza Pop-Jovanov, Secretary;
 - c. Franja Vadnal, Records Keeper;
 - d. Jano Kurunjak, Chief of the Military Section;
 - e. Misha Lavac, Chief of the Agricultural Section; and
 - f. Misha Babjak, Chief of the Supply and Acquisition Section.
2. The Political Secretary of the 40-member Communist Party cell in Kulpin was Paljo Kreka.
3. The collective was established in February 1949, but the peasants were not forced to join it. The confiscated land of formerly wealthy Yugoslav land-owners and land formerly owned by German families who emigrated was given to the collective. Only about 100 families, who had no land, joined the collective, the collective had four working-brigades, about 50 cattle, and about 78 pigs. The collective also had three sowing machines, one fertilizer machine, two threshing machines, and three tractors. The working members of the collective received three kilograms of wheat, and three and one-half kilograms of corn each working day. In addition, at the end of the year they received a payment in cash and bonds.

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4. [REDACTED]

5. The Chairman of the collective was Misha Cerovski; the accountant was Ivica Grujic; and the warehouse supervisor was Pera Gadobranski.

6. In July 1951 a group of collective members asked to leave the collective, but their request was turned down by the collective board.

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7. [REDACTED] wheat was 130 dinars per kilogram, corn 100 dinars per kilogram, and bread 138 dinars per kilogram.

8. The free farmers in Kulpin complained frequently about the high taxation and about the large amounts of products that they were forced to surrender to the government. A certain Veshkovic, a Montenegrin, was the representative of the Novi Sad District Commissioner of Trade and Supply, and he was charged with control of the collections from the free peasants in Kulpin. He often visited the homes of free farmers during the night to search for food. He also forced people to stand for hours against a wall with their hands up while he interrogated them about where they had hidden food.

9. All important positions in the Militia, UDB, and Communist Party, in the villages of Voivodina were held by Montenegrin settlers. The Montenegrins, who received the lands of German families who emigrated, often dismantled farm warehouses, stables, and other buildings in order to sell the materials. The Slovak peasants in Kulpin have constructed about 150 new buildings with materials they purchased from the Montenegrins.

10. Prior to 1948 some Slovak peasants in Kulpin sold their land and homes and emigrated to Czechoslovakia. Most of them were not well received there, and they returned to Kulpin.

Montenegrins in Ravan Areas

11. Montenegrins and Hercegovinians have been settled in the village of Ravan (formerly called Shove). Montenegrins were also settled in Zmajevu (formerly Pashicevo) and Vasiljevo (formerly Despot Sveti Ivan).

12. In June 1951 the Political Secretary of the Communist Party Committee in Ravan, a Montenegrin, was arrested for pro-Cominform activity. Later, about 70 Montenegrins in Ravan and other villages in the Ravan area were arrested for pro-Cominform activities.

13. The Deputy to the Federal Parliament in Belgrade from the Novi Sad district was called Marko, a Montenegrin who is a disabled former partisan.

14. The hemp factory in Ravan, which was formerly owned by Djoka Dundjurski, has been nationalized and was being operated as a government enterprise. The factory employed 70 workers and operated two 8-hour shifts each day. The manager of the factory was Misha Melih.

15. In 1950 the Pobeda Government Factory in Petrovaradin was completed. The factory produces agricultural equipment.

[REDACTED] Comment: These groups were brought from other regions and "settled" in Ravan. The Yugoslav authorities have done this before in "unreliable" areas.

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